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The present invention aims at providing a method and apparatus for monitoring operation of a thermal device, which allows accurate understanding of the operating states up until occurrence of a failure. The method includes the steps of: storing in sequence detection data on operating states and detection time thereof as operating state data at specified time intervals; storing detection data and detection time in the event of a failure in a thermal device as point-of-failure data; storing operating state data for a specified period of time including failure occurrence time; and outputting the same. The apparatus is equipped with detection means for detecting operating states, processing means, storage means and output means. The processing means stores in sequence detection data and detection time from the detection means in the storage means as operating state data at specified time intervals, stores detection data and time in the event of a failure in the thermal device in the storage means, stores operating state data for a specified period of time including the failure occurrence time, and outputs stored data to the output means.